(b) Instructions have been issued to the FCI for the speedy liquidation of all stocks three or more years old and stocks procured under relaxed specification (URS).

(c) The details of the stocks of (i) damaged category wheat and rice which were not fit for human consumption, (ii) 'D' category rice which were not fit for human consumption without upgrading and (iii) rice procured under the relaxed specifications which were not acceptable under the Public Distribution and other Welfare Schemes, disposed of during the last three years are as under:

(Qty. in lakh MT)

Items	00-01	01-02	02-03	Total
Damaged wheat	0.32	0.33	0.45	1.10
Damaged rice and paddy	1.30	0.84	1.56	3.70
'D' Category rice	0.09	0.63	0.21	0.93
URS rice	2.68	4.02	0.59	7.29
TOTAL	4.39	5.82	2.81	13.02

Besides, the entire stock of about 164.6 lakh MT of luster lost wheat procured under the relaxed specification during the Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02 has almost been disposed of through lifting under the Public Distribution System and the other welfare schemes and sale in market for domestic consumption as well as export.

Death due to starvation

1735. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people died or committed suicide in certain States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa due to starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have identified through District Administration, the families and persons who are not in a position to earn livelihood for their subsistence;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) in what manner Government are meeting their subsistence requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No death due to starvation has so far been reported by the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains are being allocated to the State Governments/UTs at subsidized rates. Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), wheat and rice are being supplied to the poorest of the poor @ Rs. 2/- per kg. and Rs. 3/- per kg. respectively. As an intiative for alleviation of hunger from amongst the most vulnerable sections of the society such as old people, widows and disabled persons, terminally ill persons, persons aged 60 years or more, etc. with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence, the AAY has been expanded recently thereby including 50 lakh additional families. The number of AAY families has thus risen to 1.50 crore. Besides, under various Welfare Schemes, foodgrains are being supplied to the State Governments/Union Territories at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates.

Norms for drinking water

1736. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement EU norms for bottled drinking water and mineral water from January 1, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the national agency for quality norms and certifications, Bureau of Indian Standards has written to all licencees of bottled drinking water and mineral water to implement its amended standards formulated in October, 2003 in respect of permissible pesticide residues; and

(c) if so, what were the main reasons for accepting the EU norms?